

Ava Saccoccio Hill  
Manchester, CT

HB 5860

Good afternoon Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, and the members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to testify in support of HB5860: An Act Concerning Notification of a Family or Household Member After a Motor Vehicle Fatality.

I am here to support this bill because of my personal tragic experience – the death of my 20 year old daughter Michelle Saccoccio. Michelle was killed and I was prevented from knowing where the accident occurred, where her body was, who pronounced her dead and even the fact that she had had an autopsy. She died less than five miles from my home. I was never given a chance to see her body until fifteen minutes prior to her wake. I wanted to identify her – to touch her and to try and understand what happened.

After contacting Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, our correspondence resulted in an investigation. Ultimately, I met with Representative Ryan Barry as I was seeking help; determined to create legislation that would spare another individual from suffering through the days, weeks, months and now nearly two years of so many unanswered questions. Representative Barry was in total support of bringing this bill before you today.

HB 5860 requires police to use reasonable efforts to notify a decedent's family as soon as practicable regarding the location of the accident and the location of the decedent's body. The legislation requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to design a model policy for local and state police departments to consider when implementing this act.

Thank you very much for allowing me to testify regarding this important bill. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Ava Hill.